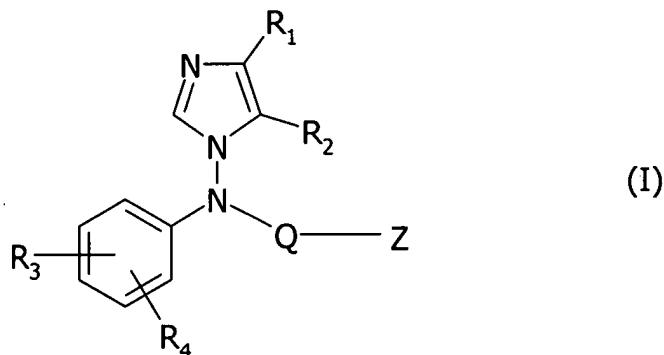


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

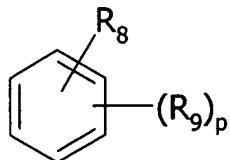
Claims 1-39 (canceled).

40. (new) An imidazole derivative of formula (I):



and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein :

- R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently hydrogen, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl or a (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)cycloalkyl ;
- Q is (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-X-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-A;
- A is a direct link, O or NR<sub>5</sub>;
- X is a direct link or C(O) ;
- Z is the group



- one of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> is hydroxy, cyano, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy or OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>; and
- the other of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, NR<sub>12</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>11</sub>R<sub>12</sub> group,

- $R_4$  is hydrogen and  $R_9$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, acyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ , or  $CO_2R_{10}$  group,
- $R_8$  and  $R_9$  together with the phenyl ring bearing them can also form a benzoxathiazine dioxide or a dihydrobenzoxathiazine dioxide;
- $m$  and  $n$  are each independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;
- $p$  is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

with the proviso that when  $Q$  is  $(CH_2)_n$ ,  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2, one of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  is hydroxy, nitro,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ , or  $OSO_2NR_{10}SO_2NR_{11}R_{12}$  group;

- $R_5$ ,  $R_{10}$ ,  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  are each hydrogen.

41. (new) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- one of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  is cyano; and
- the other is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  group.

42. (new) A derivative according to claim 1, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- one of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  is cyano; and
- the other is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  group.

43. (new) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- $R_9$  is hydrogen or a hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $CO_2R_{10}$ ,  $CHO$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  group.

44. (new) A derivative according to claim 43, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

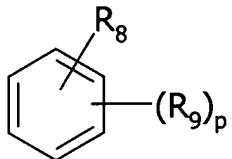
- $R_4$  is hydrogen; and

- $R_9$  is hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $CO_2R_{10}$ , or  $CHO$ .

45. (new) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of a direct link,  $C(O)$ ,  $SO_2$ ,  $CONH$ ,  $C(O)(CH_2)_n$ ,  $(CH_2)_n(O)$  or  $(CH_2)_n$  in which n is 0, 1 or 2.

46. (new) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- Z is



- Q is  $(CH_2)_n$  in which n 0, 1 or 2;
- $R_8$  is hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano or a  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ , or  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  group; and
- $R_9$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ , or  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ .

47. (new) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n is 0 or 1; and
- $R_9$  is hydrogen, halogen,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, acyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  or  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ .

48. (new) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n is 0 or 1;
- $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are each hydrogen; and
- $R_9$  is hydrogen, halogen,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl or  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ .

49. (new and withdrawn) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n and p are 1;
- R<sub>8</sub> is a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, NR<sub>12</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> or OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>11</sub>R<sub>12</sub> group;
- R<sub>9</sub> a hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub> or CHO group; and
- R<sub>3</sub> is cyano, hydroxy, or OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>.

50. (new and withdrawn) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein one of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> is hydroxy, cyano or OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> and the other of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> is hydroxy, nitro, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> or NR<sub>12</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>.

51. (new and withdrawn) A derivative according to claim 50, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein one of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> is cyano or OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> and the other is hydroxy or OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>.

52. (new and withdrawn) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> are hydrogen.

53. (new and withdrawn) A compound according to claim 40, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance.

54. (new and withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a derivative according to claim 40, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

55. (new and withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 54, comprising from 0.1 to 400 mg of said derivative.

56. (new) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is selected the group consisting of:

- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)amino]methylbenzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methylbenzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile
- 4-[N-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-bromo-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-formyl-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}benzene sulphonamide,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxy-3-nitrophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 5-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}-2-methoxybenzoic acid,
- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-nitrophenyl)amino]benzonitrile,
- N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetamide,

- N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamide,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)propanamide,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4-(phenylmethoxy)benzensulfonamide,
- 4-[N-(3-amino-4-hydroxy-phenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-{N-[2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)ethyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino}benzonitrile,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4-hydroxybenzensulfonamide,
- 4-[N-(4-aminophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- Sulfamic acid 4-[N-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-chloro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester, hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 2-methoxy-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- N-{4-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl}sulfamide,

- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]sulfonyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{2-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)-carbamoyl]-methyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]-3-oxopropyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 3-(aminosulfonyl)amino-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- 2-Bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]methyl}phenyl amidimidodisulfate acid,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3,4-dihydro-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 5-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}-2-hydroxybenzoic acid,
- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(phenyl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-tosylamino-4-hydroxy-benzyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3-tosyl-3H-1,2,3-benzoxathiazol-5-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3H-1,2,3-benzoxathiazol-5-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile, and
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N'-phenylurea.

57. (new) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is selected from the group consisting of:

- Sulfamic acid 4-[N-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,

- Sulfamic acid 2-chloro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 2-methoxy-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]sulfonyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{2-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)-carbamoyl]-methyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]-3-oxopropyl} phenyl ester, and
- Sulfamic acid 3-(aminosulfonyl)amino-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester.

58. (new) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride.